

Grazing in New Jersey

Working to Support the Suburban Grazer



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Yes, there is grazing in New Jersey.

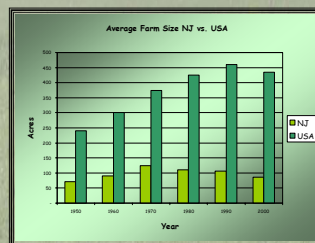
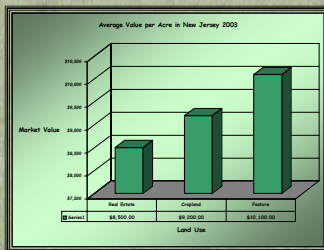


New Jersey is known for their cranberries, orchards and farmer's markets, but other agricultural industries are still alive and well, such as crop farming, dairying and grass-based livestock production. New Jersey is unique in that acreage is becoming very limited and resources are becoming scarce to support livestock production. Therefore, New Jersey has been utilizing programs, such as AMA, to help establish and promote diverse agriculture. NRCS in New Jersey is forced to think outside the box when it comes to agriculture, and focuses all efforts to build bridges between farming operations and urban areas. Many farms now consist of unique livestock, such as buffalo, caribou, emu, reindeer or many others, as well as being integrated with other agricultural enterprises. Because farming lies in the backyards of many developments and urban areas, aesthetics play an intricate part in neighbor relations, and therefore need to be addressed in every operation. Grazers are looking for innovative solutions to many hurdles, to assist them in becoming a sustainable, profitable operation.

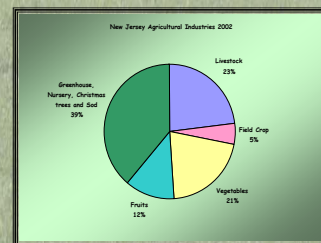
The Garden State is home to over 8 million residents occupying New Jersey's 31,000,000 acres. That makes New Jersey the fourth smallest state, as well as the most densely populated state in the United States. However, the agricultural industry ranks just behind pharmaceuticals and tourism, bringing in \$812,246,000 in cash receipts for 2001.

Number of Farms		
Year	NJ	USA
1950	24,000	5,000,000
1960	15,800	4,000,000
1970	8,600	3,000,000
1980	9,400	2,500,000
1990	8,100	2,000,000
2000	9,600	2,000,000

Acres in Agriculture In 1,000 acres		
Year	NJ	USA
1950	1,710	1,200,000
1960	1,460	1,175,000
1970	1,050	1,100,000
1980	1,000	1,000,000
1990	870	1,000,000
2000	830	940,000

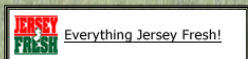


New Jersey utilizes USDA programs to provide financial as well as technical assistance to grass-based producers.



Technical Assistance		
	AMA	EQIP
2000	---	\$161,200
2001	\$40,000	\$184,300
2002	\$47,600	\$184,300
2003	\$29,200	\$685,500

Financial Assistance		
	AMA	EQIP
2000	---	\$575,700
2001	\$180,300	\$662,200
2002	\$252,900	\$762,000
2003	---	\$2,233,700



The New Jersey Garden State Grazing Coalition strengthens existing land stewardship partnerships and provides educational opportunities for producers, coalition members, and interested community members.